

Romans 16, Daily Devotions

☐ Monday - Paul's Catalogue of Christian Friends. Romans 16:1-2
In Romans, chapter 16, the apostle Paul greets some twenty-eight of his Christian friends who were in the house churches in Rome (v. 3-15), and he sends greetings from another eight of his Christian friends who were with him in Corinth (v. 21-23). You can tell a lot about a person by the friends that he keeps. The apostle Paul knew the importance of godly friendships: for fellowship, accountability, and encouragement. What would a list of your closest friends reveal about you? Read Proverbs 27:17; 1 Corinthians 15:33

☐ Tuesday - The Rare Jewel of Christian Hospitality. Romans 16:3-5
Paul concludes his epistle to the house churches in Rome, saying, "Greet Prisca and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus, who for my life risked their own necks, to whom not only do I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles; also greet the church that is in their house" (Rom. 16:3-5). Aquila and Prisca (Priscilla) were a Jewish couple who had converted to Christianity (Acts 18:2), and wherever they lived they opened up their home to the church: in Ephesus (1 Cor. 16:19); in Rome (Rom. 16:3-5); and earlier in Corinth the apostle Paul lived with them for 18 months while he shared the gospel everyday in the city (Acts 18:1-11). Aquila and Priscilla loved God's people and they used their home to refresh the saints. Did you know that hospitality is actually commanded in the Bible? Whether you have a tiny apartment or a sprawling estate, use it, Christian, to encourage God's people. Read Hebrews 13:1-2

☐ Wednesday - Vigilance in the Last Days. Romans 16:17
Paul warned the Christians in Rome, "Keep your eye on those who cause dissensions and hindrances contrary to the teaching which you learned, and turn away from them" (Rom. 16:17). Likewise, he cautioned the saints in Thessalonica, "Keep aloof from every brother who leads an unruly life and not according to the tradition which you received from us" (2 Thess. 3:6, cf. v. 14). And he gave similar warnings to others (Titus 3:10; 1 Tim. 1:3, 6:3-5). According to the Scriptures, we live in the last days, in which there will be "false brethren" (2 Cor. 11:26; Gal. 2:4), "false teachers" (2 Pet. 2:1-3), and "false prophets" (Mt. 7:15, 24:24); therefore, "Be on the alert, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong" (1 Cor. 16:13). Read 2 Corinthians 11:13-15

☐ Thursday - This Little Light of Mine. Romans 16:19
The Barna Group recently released another poll revealing that a majority of Americans consider themselves Christians. Of course, if that were true, this country would be a dramatically different place (Psa. 33:12; Prov. 13:34). The poll also revealed that many of those who consider themselves Christians do not believe some of the essential truths of the Christian faith, hence are not true Christians. But I suppose there are others who may be true believers, yet are undercover, covert Christians. How about you? Do your neighbors and co-workers know that you believe in Christ? Throughout his epistles, the apostle Paul commends those whose Christianity is visible (Rom. 1:8; 16:19; 1 Thess. 1:7-8). Christian, don't be ashamed (Lk. 9:26), don't hide (Mk. 14:54; John 19:38), let your light shine for all to see! Read Matthew 5:14-16

☐ Friday - A Return to Innocence. Romans 16:19
Here the apostle declares, "I want you to be wise in what is good, and innocent in what is evil" (Rom. 16:19, cf. 1 Cor. 14:20). Our problem today is that we are exposed to so much so early that Americans have forgotten how to blush! America has lost its innocence. What was rude, crude and socially unacceptable just twenty years ago has now entered the mainstream media and daily conversation. Christian, "You are the light of the world" (Mt. 5:14), but "if the light that is in you becomes darkness, O how great is the darkness!" (Mt. 6:23). Read Romans 12:9; Ephesians 5:3-18